



College Enrollment, Persistence, and Graduation: Statewide Results

72 Percent of Public High School Graduates Enroll in College

46 Percent Graduate in Six Years

Summary

Among students in the public high school graduating classes of 2009 to 2012, approximately 72 percent enrolled in college at any time during their first year after graduation. Nearly 46 percent of the high school graduating class of 2007 graduated from college with an Associate's, Bachelor's or higher degree within 6 years, with 30.7 percent attaining a degree in four years. These statewide results were provided to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) by the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). Detailed results are included in the appendix. Reports for Connecticut's public high schools on college enrollment, persistence, and graduation that were generated by the NSC are online at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2758&q=335288>.

Of the approximately 28,000 students from the class of 2012 who enrolled in college in the first year after graduation:

- 64 percent chose a public higher education institution;
- 73 percent chose a 4-year institution; and
- 58 percent remained in the state.

These figures have remained relatively stable over the last six graduating classes.

When the data are disaggregated by traditional student demographic characteristics, wide disparities emerge, especially in the six-year college graduation rate for the high school class of 2007.

- Female students had a six-year graduation rate of approximately 51.7 percent, compared to 39.4 percent for male students.
- Asian students and White students had higher graduation rates (57.3 percent and 53.0 percent respectively) as compared to Black/African American (21.5 percent) and Hispanic/Latino (19.6 percent) students.
- Only 18.7 percent of economically disadvantaged students earned a college degree within six years as compared to 52.2 percent of their non-disadvantaged peers.

Appendix

The statewide data are disaggregated based on student demographic characteristics. In addition to college enrollment and graduation, an interim measure of college persistence (the percent of college freshman who remain enrolled in their sophomore year) is also provided.

GENDER

Female students were much more likely to enroll, persist, and succeed in college than their male counterparts.

- From the class of 2012, 77.7 percent of female students enrolled during the first year after high school, compared to only 67.1 percent of males (see six year trend in table below).

Demographic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Female	74.4%	76.5%	77.3%	77.1%	78.1%	77.7%
Male	64.8%	66.7%	67.8%	68.3%	67.1%	67.1%

- Females outpaced males in freshman-to-sophomore retention, with 90.2 percent of females from the class of 2011 returning for a second year of college compared to 87.1 percent of males.
- The success rate in terms of graduation from college showed an even larger gender gap. Female students from the class of 2007 had a six-year graduation rate of approximately 51.7 percent, compared to 39.4 percent for male students.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Asian and White students were more likely to enroll, persist, and graduate from college than their peers from other racial/ethnic backgrounds.

- For the class of 2012, Asian students were the most likely to enroll (82.9 percent) in college during the first year after high school graduation, followed by White students (76.7 percent), American Indian or Native Alaskan students (67.6 percent), Black or African American students (63.3 percent), Multiracial students (66.1 percent), Hispanic/Latino students (57.7 percent), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders (52.4 percent). See table below for the six year trend.

Demographic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
American Indian or Native Alaskan	61.0%	58.7%	57.9%	70.7%	64.3%	67.6%
Asian	76.2%	80.9%	79.9%	81.7%	81.7%	82.9%
Black or African American	58.3%	61.6%	62.2%	62.6%	65.3%	63.3%
Hispanic/Latino	47.0%	53.3%	53.6%	55.2%	58.1%	57.7%
Two or more races	*	*	*	*	72.0%	66.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	58.8%	52.4%
White	74.7%	75.9%	77.1%	77.2%	76.4%	76.7%

- Freshman-to-sophomore retention also varied considerably across racial/ethnic groups. For the freshmen from the Class of 2011, Asian students had the highest retention rate (93.7 percent) followed by White students (91.3 percent), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders (90.0 percent), American Indian or Native Alaskan students (88.9 percent), Multiracial students (86.0 percent), Black or African American students (80.3 percent), and Hispanic/Latino students (79.5 percent).
- Degree attainment in terms of a 6-year graduation rate from college showed significant racial/ethnic gaps. For the Class of 2007, Asian students had the highest graduation rate (57.3 percent) followed by white students (53.0 percent), American Indian or Native Alaskan students (29.3 percent), Black or African American students (21.5 percent), and Hispanic/Latino students (19.6 percent).

INCOME/POVERTY

Using eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch as a measure of income, the NSC data reveal an extremely strong effect of poverty on college-going, persistence, and graduation.

- During the first year after high school graduation in 2012, 55.5 percent of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in college, compared to 79.5 percent of higher income students (see six year trend in table below).

Demographic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Economically Disadvantaged	47.5%	51.9%	53.1%	53.8%	56.1%	55.5%
Not Economically Disadvantaged	75.1%	77.3%	78.7%	79.5%	79.1%	79.5%

- Economic status also affected the ability of college freshmen to stay in school. The freshmen to sophomore retention rate for members of the class of 2011 was 78.3 percent for economically disadvantaged students enrolled in college compared to 91.7 percent of higher income students.
- The differences are starkest in college graduation rates. Only 18.7 percent of the economically disadvantaged students in the Class of 2007 earned a college degree within six years, compared to 52.2 percent of higher income students.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Proficiency in the English Language was also related to college-going, retention, and graduation rates.

- During the first year after high school graduation in 2012, 48.8 percent of English Language Learner students (ELL) enrolled in college, compared to 73.4 percent of non-ELL students. This enrollment gap has reduced modestly over the last six graduating classes (see six year trend in table below).

Demographic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
English Language Learner	40.1%	45.9%	47.3%	47.9%	48.2%	48.8%
Not English Language Learner	70.7%	72.6%	73.5%	73.7%	73.6%	73.4%

- The freshmen to sophomore retention rate for members of the class of 2011 was 80.6 percent for ELL students enrolled in college compared to 89.0 percent for non-ELL students.
- 17.2 percent of the ELL students in the Class of 2007 earned a college degree within six years, compared to 46.6 percent of non-ELL students.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) at any time during their high school years were less likely to enroll in, persist, and graduate from college.

- 40.8 percent of students with disabilities from the Class of 2012 enrolled in college during the first year after high school graduation, compared to 75 percent of non-disabled students (see six year trend in table below).

Demographic	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Students with Disabilities	39.0%	42.0%	42.7%	42.1%	41.5%	40.8%
Non-disabled Students	72.4%	73.9%	74.7%	75.0%	74.9%	75.0%

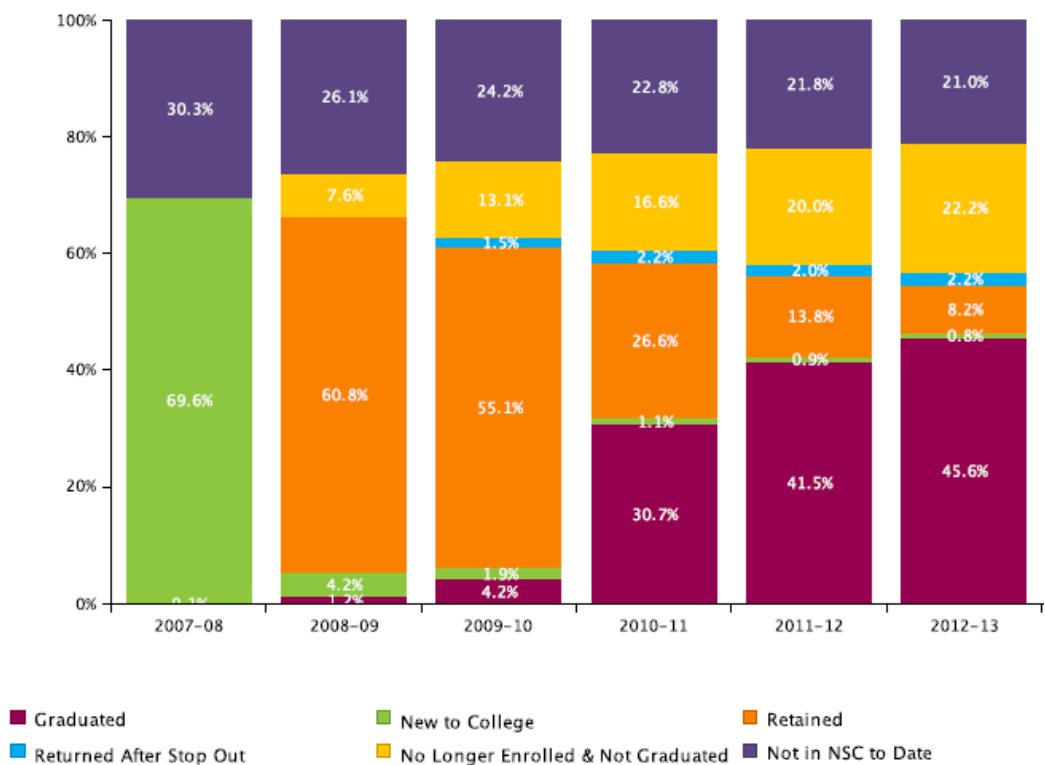
- The freshman to sophomore retention rate for members of the class of 2011 was 75.1 percent for students with disabilities enrolled in college compared to 89.4 percent of non-disabled students.
- 14.5 percent of the students with disabilities in the Class of 2007 earned a college degree within 6 years, compared to 48.4 percent of non-disabled students.

ENROLLMENT AND PROGRESS OF THE CLASS OF 2007

The most complete picture of the pathways of progress in college can be obtained by following the class of 2007, though six years of National Student Clearinghouse data (see Chart below). The chart follows the class of 2007 from the fall of 2007 through the spring of 2013. Important highlights of the results include:

- 70 percent of this class enrolled in the first year, while an additional 4 percent enrolled in the second year, 2 percent more in the third year, and another 1 percent enrolled in each of the remaining years.
- 21 percent of students never enrolled in college, according to NSC.
- 22 percent of the class enrolled but left college without earning a degree.
- 8 percent of the class were still enrolled after six years.
- About 2 percent of the class returned each year after a gap in their postsecondary enrollment.
- After six years, 46 percent of the high school class had earned a college degree.

Class of 2007 Postsecondary Enrollment and Progress



Source: National Student Clearinghouse, Student Tracker Report

NSC reports enrollment of students attending public and private, not-for-profit colleges and universities. While not all such institutions report their data, it is estimated that NSC collects data on approximately 94 percent of Connecticut students. For additional information, please see <http://nscresearchcenter.org/workingwithourdata/>.